

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00
FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00
ACDA-07 /111 W
-----021531Z 094564 /40

R 021303Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4554
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENGR, FR, EG
SUBJECT: FRENCH SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS/FRANCE/EGYPT
ENERGY COOP.

REF A) STATE 64718 B) CAIRO 624, C) CAIRO 17434 (12/76)

1. SUMMARY: SCIATT RECENTLY DISCUSSED FRENCH PLANS TO EXPORT
10 MEGAWATT SOLAR THERMAL ENERGY ELECTRIC PLANTS THROUGH ST. GOBAIN
PONT A MOUSSON AND REGLE NATIONAL DES USINES RENAULT WITH
DR. RENY LESTIENNE DC., CENTRE FRANCO-EGYPTIEN D'INFORMATION
SCIENTIFIQUE IN CAIRO. REPORTS OF FRENCH/EGYPT NUCLEAR COOP.
WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. LESTIENNE WAS UNAWARE OF PLANS TO DELIVER 10 MEGAWATT
PLANTS TO EGYPT, AT LEAST IN NEAR FUTURE. HE KNEW, HOWEVER OF
ST. GOBAIN ET AL INTEREST IN SOLAR BOILERS. HE SAID REPORTS
(REF A) REFERRED TO EXPORT OF 2 AND 5 KW SOLAR PUMP/DISTRIBUTOR
UNITS TO BE USED TO PUMP WATER FROM IRRIGATION CANALS AND WELLS.
PUMPS ARE CONVENTIONAL TECHNOLOGY (REF B, C). ABOUT 51 UNITS
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ARE NOW IN USE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES INCLUDING MEXICO AND
MAURITANIA. FYI, REPORT OF 10 MEGAWATT PLANT HAS SIMILARITIES
TO IDEA PROPOSED BY MIN. OF ENERGY & ELECTRIC POWER UNDERSECRETARY
MAYER ABAZZA TO DR. M. TALAAT, UNIV. OF MD. (REF B) END FYI.

3. EGYPTIAN PUMPS WOULD PROBABLY BE FINANCED FROM 6 MILLION
FRENCH FRANC FUND THROUGH RECENT PROTOCOL FOR FRANCO-

EGYPTIAN ENERGY COOPERATION. FUNDING WOULD BE IN FORM OF LOW INTEREST LOANS. SOME TRAINING OF EGYPTIANS IN ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY & APPLICATIONS IS ALSO PLANNED. IDEA IS TO FAMILIARIZE EGYPT WITH SOLAR ENERGY STATE OF THE ART TECHNOLOGY (FRENCH), STRENGTHEN FRENCH/EGYPT S&T LINKS AND PRESUMABLY, CREATE FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR FOLLOW ON SALES IN FUTURE TECHNOLOGY. LESTIENNE ADDED, THAT PROBLEM WAS HOW TO EMPLOY THE MONEY USEFULLY, HE SAID MOST WOULD BE FOR SUPPORT OF SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION & INTRODUCTION, SOME TO PHOTO-VOLTAIC DEVICES, AND RELATIVELY LITTLE TO SUPPORT OF RESEARCH AS MUCH IN EGYPT. FROM THRUST OF CONVERSATION, IT APPEARS THAT LARGEST FRENCH INTEREST IN S&T COOP. WITH EGYPT IS IN ENERGY AREA.

4. DR. LESTIENNE WAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT RECENT CAIRO PRESS REPORTS THAT FRANCE HAD SUPPLIED EGYPT WITH A "NUCLEAR REACTOR FOR WATER DESALTING" WHICH COULD PROVIDE WATER FOR A CITY OF 15,000. HE SAID REPORT WAS INACCURATE AND EXAGGERATED. DEVICE REFERRED TO IS ACTUALLY SMALL NON-NUCLEAR ELECTRO-DIALYSIS UNIT, VAN MOUNTED, WITH OUT PUT OF "SEVERAL CUBIC METERS/DAY". ORIGINALLY THIS UNIT WAS TO HAVE BEEN INSTALLED AT MERSA MATRUH ON MEDITERRANEAN NEAR LIBYA, BUT FOR UNEXPLAINED REASONS, EGYPTIANS HAVE NOW LOCATED IT AT BADRASHEAN, SOUTH OF CAIRO.

5. LESTIENNE SPECULATED THAT PRESS DESCRIPTION OF SYSTEM AS NUCLEAR COULD HAVE BEEN BECAUSE SYSTEM WAS SUPPLIED BY CEA, FRENCH NUCLEAR ENTITY. ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION IN GENERAL HE SAID FRANCE HAD NO PLANS VIS A VIS EGYPT, BUT ADDED THAT COMMERCIALIZATION OF NUCLEAR REACTORS WAS FRENCH POLICY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. THE CENTRE FRANCO-EGYPTIEN D'INFORMATION SCIENTIFIQUE HAS FUNCTIONS SIMILAR TO THE USIS AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER AND THE BRITISH COUNCIL. IT PROVIDES A SMALL TECHNICAL LIBRARY, INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION EXCHANGE, AND SPONSORS FILMS, CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS. IT ALSO HAS SOME FUNDS TO PROVIDE BOOKS AND JOURNALS TO EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITIES AND TO FACILITATE CONTACTS BETWEEN FRENCH & EGYPTIAN RESEARCHERS. IT DOES NOT SUPPORT RESEARCH IN EGYPT. DR. LESTIENNE IS A PHYSICIST ON DETAIL FROM THE CENTRE NATIONAL DE RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE (CNRS). HE RETURNS TO FRANCE IN JULY AFTER THREE YEARS HERE. HE FUNCTIONS AS THE SCIENCE ATTACHE FOR THE FRENCH EMBASSY. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, JOINT VENTURES, SOLAR POWER, THERMAL POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO07381
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770153-0436
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197705105/aaaadmua.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 034be287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 64718, 77 CAIRO 624, 77 CAIRO 17434
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2335282
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS/FRANCE/EGYPT ENERGY COOP.
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR, EG
To: STATE PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/034be287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009